Representation on SC/ST Among Diplomats

*553. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats in position as on date;

(b) the number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats that belong to SC/ST category; and

(c) What action Government are taking to increase representation of SCs/STs in respect of posting of diplomats in various countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consulate Generals and other diplomats from the Ministry of External Affairs as on date is 476.

(b) The number belonging to SCs/STs is 115.

(c) Efforts are made towards the appointment of officers belonging to the SC/ST category as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consulate Generals on the basis of a number of criteria which include, interalia, their seniority, relevant experience, career, background and an overall suitbility to the tasks and the post.

Accidents of National Highways in Tamil Nadu

*554. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) The number of persons killed/injured in such accidents in the State during that period; and

(c) The steps taken to check road accidents on National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENTERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Total number of road accidents, persons killed and persons injured on National Highways in Tamil Nadu for last three years from 1998 to 2000 are as under :

Year	Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
1998	13731	3106	9822
1999	16329	3639	14706
2000	18615	4362	20146